Census 2011

What is the census?

- Census is nothing but a process of collecting, compiling, analyzing, evaluating, publishing and disseminating statistical data regarding the population.
- The population of India, at 1210.2 million, is almost equal to the combined population of U.S.A., Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Japan put together (1214.3 million).
- The Indian Census is one of the largest administrative exercises undertaken in the world.

- The 15th Census of India and the 7th Census of Independent India-2011 was started on 1st April 2010 with President being the first citizen to be enumerated, followed by the Vice President of India. The slogan of census 2011 was 'Our Census, Our future'. C. Chandramouli was the Census Commissioner of India 2011.

- Census of India 2011 was conducted in two stages:

- House listing & Housing Census: (April to September 2010)
- Population Enumeration (9th to 28 February 2011)

- Nodal Ministry:
- The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Until 1951, the Census Organisation was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census.

Legal/Constitutional Backing:

- Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.
- The bill for this Act was piloted by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India.
- The population census is a Union subject under Article 246 of India Constitution.
- It is listed at serial number 69 of the seventh schedule of the constitution.

History of Census

- Ancient and Medieval Period:
- Rigveda: The earliest literature 'Rig-Veda' reveals that some kind of population count was maintained during 800-600 BC in India.
- Arthashastra: 'Arthashastra' by 'Kautilya' written in the 3rd Century BC prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for taxation.
- Ain-i-Akbari: During the regime of the Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report 'Ain-e-Akbari' also included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.
- Pre-independence Period:
- Initial Attempts:
- The history of the census began with 1800 when England had begun its Census.
- In its continuation, a census was conducted in Allahabad (1824) and in Banaras (1827-28) by James Prinsep.
- The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in Dacca (now Dhaka).
- The Second Census was conducted in 1836-37 by Fort St. George.
- In 1849, the Government of India ordered the local governments to conduct quinquennial (five-yearly) returns of population.

- First Non-synchronous Census: It was conducted in India in 1872 during the reign of Governor-General Lord Mayo.
- First Synchronous Census: The first synchronous census was taken under British rule on February 17, 1881, by W.C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India).
- Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.

- First Census (1881):
- It laid main emphasis on the classification of demographic, economic and social characteristics of the entire continent of British India (except Kashmir and French and Portuguese colonies).

- Fifth Census (1921):
- The decade of 1911-21 has been the only one till now to witness a decadal population decline of 0.31%.
- This was the decade that ended in the flu pandemic of 1918 which cost at least 12 million lives.
- India's population was continuously increasing until Census 1921 and still has been doing so after the 1921 Census.
- Therefore, the census year of 1921 is called the year of "The Great Divide" in the demographic history of India.

- Thirteenth Census (1991):
- It was the fifth Census of independent India.
- In this Census, the concept of literacy was changed and the children of the 7+ age group were considered literate (as compared to 1981 when children up to the age group of 4+ were treated as literate).

- Fifteenth Census (2011):
- In the 2011 Census, significant fall in case of EAG States (Empowered action group states: UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan & Orissa) was noticed for the first time.
- Sixteenth Census (2021):
- Census 2021 was postponed owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.
- However, it will be the first digital Census, also with a provision for self-enumeration.
- It is for the first time that information of households headed by a person from the Transgender Community and members living in the family will be collected.
- Earlier there was a column for male and female only.

Why is the census important?

1. The Indian Census is the most credible source of information on Demography (Population characteristics), Economic Activity, Literacy and Education, Housing & Household Amenities, Urbanisation, Fertility and Mortality, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Language, Religion, Migration, Disability and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872. Census 2011 is the 15th National Census of the Country. This is the only source of primary data in the village, town and ward level, It provides valuable information for planning and formulation policies for Central and the State Governments and is widely used by National and International Agencies, scholars, business people, industrialists, and many more.

2. The delimitation/reservation of Constituencies

Facts:

- **Uttar Pradesh** (200 million) is the most populous State in the country – population is more than the population of Brazil. The combined population of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra (312 million) is greater than the population of USA.
- **Highest populated Districts of India**
- **Thane** with population of 1.1 Crore is the most populated district of India. North Twenty Fourth Pargana in West Bengal is the second most populous district of India with a population of 1.08 Crore.
- **Lowest Populated Districts of India**
- With a population of 7948, **Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh** is the lowest populated district of India.

States with Highest Decadal Growth Rate 2001-2011

- However, if we compare all states and UTs, then the highest decadal growth is registered by Dadra and Nagar Haveli that is 55.50% . Lowest Growth Rate has been of Nagaland – Negative .47%, followed by Kerala – 4.86%.
- **Districts with highest and lowest Decadal Growth Rate**
- District with highest decadal growth rate was Kurung Kumey in Arunachal Pradesh that registered 111% growth rate. District with lowest decadal growth rate was Longleng in Nagaland which registered -58.39% Growth rate.

- There are wide variations in the decadal growth rate of population. Bihar has a growth rate of 25.1 per cent during 2001-11 in the Group A states while the growth rate in Kerala is only 4.9 per cent.
- Among Group B states, Meghalaya has the highest growth rate (27%) while Nagaland has a negative growth rate (-0.5%). This is because the 2001 census was messed up. Excluding Nagaland, the lowest growth rate was in Goa (8.2%).
- Among Group C states, the highest growth rate was in Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT (55.5%) while the lowest growth rate was in Lakshadweep UT (6.2%).

- As per the provisional data of Census 2011, population density of India stands at 382, which is 17.5% more than 325 in Census 2001.
- NCT of Delhi with 11297 is has highest density in India, followed by Chandigarh where population density stands at 9252.
- Population density of Arunachal Pradesh is 17. Lowest among all states and Uts in India. Lowest Population density among Uts is of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (46).

State with the highest population density	Bihar
State with the lowest population density	Arunachal Pradesh
Union territory with least population	Lakshadweep
State with the highest population	Uttar Pradesh
State with the lowest population	Sikkim
State with the highest sex ratio	Kerala
State with the lowest sex ratio	Haryana
State with the highest literacy rate	Kerala
State with the lowest literacy rate	Bihar

- India's literacy rates stands at 72.09 % for age 7 and above. The literacy has increased by 9.2% from 2001 Census. Male literacy stands at 80.89 and female literacy stands at 64.64%. The gap of 16.25 percentage points recorded between male and female literacy rates in 2001 Census has reduced to 16.68 percentage points in 2011.

Literacy Rate in India (Category)	Data from Census of India 2011
Males	80.89
Females	64.64
Overall Literacy	72%

- Top five states and UTs, where literacy rate is the highest, are Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent), Mizoram (91.3 per cent), Goa (88.7 per cent) and Tripura (87.2).
- The bottom five states and UTs are Bihar (61.8 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (65.4 per cent), Rajasthan (66.1 per cent), Jharkhand (66.4 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (67 per cent).

Sex ratio

- The sex ratio of population in the country in 2011 stands at 943 female against 1000 males, which is 10 per cent more than the last census when the number female per thousand male stood at 933. Haryana has the dubious distinction of having the worst male-female ratio among all states while Kerala fares the best.
- The number of females per 1000 males in Haryana in 2011 stands at 879 followed by Jammu and Kashmir (889 female) and Punjab (895 females).
- Five top performing states in terms of sex ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991), Odisha (979).

Child population

- There has been a decline of 8 per cent in the sex ratio of 0-6 age group. In 2011, the child sex ratio (0-6) stands at 919 female against 1000 male in comparison to 927 females in 2001.
- Male child (0-6) population has increased whereas female child population has decreased during 2001-11.
- The worst performing states in regard to sex ration in the age group of 0 to 6 years are Haryana (834 females), Punjab (846), Jammu and Kashmir (862), Rajasthan (888) and Gujarat (890).
- The best performing states are Chhattisgarh (969), Kerala (964), Assam (962), West Bengal (956) Jharkhand (948) and Karnataka (948).

Religious demographics

- The data on Religious population was released in August 2015
- The data had stirred up a controversy (in media) with respect to the growth of the minority (Muslim) population. The data revealed that the share of Hindus in India's population had fallen very slightly from 80% to 79.8%. At the same time, the share of Muslims rose slightly from 13.4% in 2001 to 14.2% in 2011.
- The relatively faster growth rate in Muslim population is due to younger median age (22 in Muslims, 26 in Hindus) and relatively high Total Fertility Rate in Muslims (3.1) in comparison to Hindus (2.7) and Christians (2.3). The higher fertility rate is mainly because of low female literacy rates, poverty and backwardness.

- The religious data on India Census 2011 was released by the Government of India on 25 August 2015.
- Hindus are 79.8% (966.3 million), while Muslims are 14.23% (172.2 million) in India.
- For the first time, a "No religion" category was added in the 2011 census. 2.87 million Were classified as people belonging to "No Religion" in India in the 2011 census.
- There are six religions in India that have been awarded "National Minority" status – Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis.

One liners:

Questions	Answers
Which state of India has the lowest Literacy rate as per the 2011 Census?	Bihar, with a literacy of 63.82%
What is the sex ratio of India as per the 2011 Census?	The sex ratio in India is 943 females per 1000 males

Which state of India has the highest population density as per the 2011 census?	Bihar
Which state of India has the least population as per the 2011 census?	Sikkim with a population of 6.71 lakhs.
Which state of India has the least population density as per the 2011 census?	Arunachal Pradesh with a population density of just 17 per square kilometre
Which state has the highest urban population in India as per the 2011 census?	Goa is the most urbanized state with 62.17% of the population living in urban areas.

Which is the largest tribal group of India as per census 2011?	Bhil is the most populous tribe with a total population of 4,618,068, constituting 37.7 percent of the total ST population.
Which state of India has the lowest sex ratio as per census-2011?	Haryana features the lowest sex ratio in India with just 877 women per 1000 males.
According to the census of 2011, which is the second most spoken language in India?	Bengali is the second most spoken language in India.
According to the census 2011, Which state has the highest population of tigers in India?	Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in India which is 526.
What is the second most populated state of India?	Maharashtra
Who is the 2011 census commissioner of India?	C M Chandramauli was the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India for the 2011 Indian Census.